THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN) : (a) Sir, there is no specific proposal from Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)/Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) to establish telephone booths at public distribution shops (ration shops). However, the PCOs are allotted, subject to technical feasibility, to all applicants who are of 18 years of age or above without any restrictions of educational qualifications, employment etc., which also includes public distribution shop owners.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Plans to meet future coal demand

*76. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has not formulated any plan to meet future coal demand;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure availability of adequate quantity of coal to core sectors like power generation, steel, aluminium and infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply given to part (a) above.

(c) The following steps have been taken to ensure adequate availability of coal:

(i) Coal India Limited has been asked to increase production from existing mines and expedite production from new projects.

(ii) 136 Coal mine blocks have been identified for allocation for captive mining. Out of these, 86 coal blocks have been allotted to different consumers and more are under process.

(iii) State and Central Government companies are being allotted coal mining blocks without restriction of captive mining.

(iv) Exploration for new coal blocks has been expedited.

(v) Procedure for project approvals have been streamlined.

(vi) Power Ministry has been advised to import about 14 million tonnes of coal during 2005-06.

Hurriyat leaders Pakistan visit without passport

*77. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI :
SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hurriyat delegation which crossed the Line of Control by Muzaffarabad bus was allowed to go to Islamabad without passport and visa;

(b) whether it is not a violation of the Indo-Pak agreement;

(c) what protests Government have made with the Government of Pakistan;

(d) what steps are being taken to see that this does not become a precedence; and

(e) whether Government was fully aware of the invitation of the Government of Pakistan to the Hurriyat leaders to visit Pakistan and still allowed them to travel to Pakistan through Muzaffarabad without passports and visas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (e) Some leaders of the Hurriyat visited Pok and Pakistan from 2-16 June 2005. Their visit to PoK using the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus was cleared on the basis of procedures agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The bilateral understanding on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service is that travel is limited to the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir and is on the basis of permits issued by the two sides.